

# SILVERWINGS

“Year of the Air Force Family”

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Vol. 34, Issue 1

January 8, 2010

## Weather



### Today

High: 33, Low: 17  
Mostly Cloudy



### Saturday

High: 33, Low: 15  
Partly Cloudy



### Sunday

High: 37, Low: 18  
Sunny



### Monday

High: 48, Low: 25  
Partly cloudy

## News Briefs

### Annual Awards Ticket Sales

Tickets are on sale from now until Jan. 14 for the Wing Annual Awards Banquet. For more information, or to purchase a ticket, please contact your group POC. Senior Airman Kendra, 14th OG; Staff Sgt. Aubrey Mitera, 14th MDG; Staff Sgt. Melanie Hall, 14th MSG; Tech. Sgt. Keasha Cleveland, 14th WSA. Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy will be the guest speaker for the evening.

### Key Spouse Training

The next Key Spouse Training will be Jan. 14 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Columbus AFB squadrons are always looking for energetic spouses who would like to volunteer and be a part of the Key Spouse Team. No experience is required, just a positive attitude and a compassion and commitment to help others. The Airman & Family Readiness Center provides initial Key Spouse Training and offers free lunch during the training. To learn more about your unit's Key Spouse Program please contact the A&FRC for details at 434-2790.

## Inside



### Feature 10

Looking back on the year 2009 is highlighted in this week's feature.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jacob Corbin  
Col. Roger Watkins, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, speaks at the January Challenge safety briefing Jan. 5 at the Kaye Auditorium. Topics included flying safety, off-duty safety and operational risk management.

## Safety briefings usher in New Year

**Senior Airman Jacob Corbin**  
14th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs

The 14th Flying Training Wing held safety briefings Jan. 5 as part of the Air Force's "January Challenge."

Topics at the briefings ranged from flying safety and regulations, to off-duty safety as well.

"Each and every member of the BLAZE Team came back safe and sound (from the holiday break)," said Col. Roger Watkins, 14th Flying Training Wing commander. "Thank you for exercising good judgement."

The emphasis of the briefings was on pilots being vigilant during their return to flying after a long break.

"It's going to take a couple of flights for you to get back to where you were (in proficiency)," said Col. David Reth, 14th Operations Group commander. "Do your best and the rest will take care of itself."

Colonel Watkins echoed Colonel Reth's sentiments.

"If you come prepared and know your procedures you will do your part to make

See SAFETY, Page 2

## COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

### PHASE II

Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select
37th (10-13)	-5.31 days	-5.40 days	Feb. 24
41st (10-12)	2.31 days	-6.27 days	Jan. 19

### PHASE III

Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation
48th (10-04)	1.29 days	-1.49 days	Jan. 22
50th (10-05)	0.26 days	-1.17 days	Feb. 19

### IFF

Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation
49th (10-DB)	1.36 days	1.36 days	Feb. 3

### WING SORTIE BOARD

Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
T-6	81	81	5,694
T-1	24	21	2,568
T-38	36	20	2,335
IFF	6	6	407

The graduation speaker is Maj. Gen. Robert Kane, commanding general, Coalition Transition Team, Baghdad, Iraq.



## 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 72 BLAZE TEAM members are de-ployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



### SAFETY

(Continued from Page 1)  
sure our mission is completed safely," Colonel Watkins said.

After the BLAZE Team leadership spoke, Maj. John Lindell, 14th FTW Safety, gave the actual January Challenge brief.

The major covered a variety of safety topics, including operational risk management, on and off-duty safety.

"If you see anything that looks, dumb, different or dangerous – speak up," the major challenged.

## 14th FTW/CC holds open house



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jacob Corbin  
**Mrs. Leslie Watkins, wife of 14th Flying Training Wing Commander Col. Roger Watkins, shows photos of her family to Maggie Triulzi, daughter of Argentine Instructor Pilot Capt. Mariano Triulzi at the 14th FTW Commander's Open House Jan. 3. The Open House was held in conjunction with Pinnacle Housing, who showed off their new community center to the base populace.**

## SILVER WINGS

### How to reach us

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs  
555 Seventh St. Suite 203  
Columbus AFB, MS 39710  
Commercial: (662) 434-7068  
DSN: 742-7068  
Fax: (662) 434-7009  
E-mail: silverwings@columbus.af.mil

### Editorial Staff

Col. Roger Watkins  
14th Flying Training Wing  
Wing Commander

Mr. Rick Johnson  
Public Affairs Chief

Senior Airman Jacob Corbin  
Editor

Mr. Matt Garner  
Layout Designer

### Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting copy for next week's SILVER WINGS is noon Monday. Articles may be dropped off at the public affairs office or e-mailed.

*Published by the Commercial Dispatch Publishing Company, Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 14th Flying Training Wing.*

*This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.*

*Contents of the SILVER WINGS are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.*

*The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the DOD, the Department of the Air Force or Service Publications, Inc., of the products or services advertised.*

*Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.*

*Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office of Columbus AFB, Miss.*

*The SILVER WINGS staff reserves the right to edit or rewrite all copy submitted when necessary. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise stated.*

*Submit all advertising to the Columbus, Miss., Commercial Dispatch advertising department one week prior to desired publication date. The advertising department can be reached at (662) 328-2427.*

# Sports Shorts

**Holiday Bowling Special:** The bowling center is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 18 and offers 50 cents a game and \$1 shoe rental. For more information, call 434-3426.

**National Spouses Day Bowling Special:** The bowling center offers buy one game, get one free from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 26. For more information, call 434-3426.

**Paintball Familiarization Class:** Outdoor recreation offers this class at 10 a.m. Jan. 30. Cost is \$7 per person. Register by Jan. 28 at outdoor recreation. For more information, call 434-2507.



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun
11	12 Hearts Apart, @ 4:30 p.m.	13	14 AETC Symposium Key Spouse Training, @ 9:30 a.m., AFRC	15 Civilian Employment Briefing, 8 a.m. @ Kaye	16/17
18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, most CAFB offices closed.	19 Newcomers Orientation, Svs Complex @ 8 a.m. Class 10-12 Track Select. 5 p.m. @ Club	20	21 Dorm Dinner, 5 p.m. @ Chapel Annex Daedalians Dinner, 6 p.m. @ Club	22 Class 10-04 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	23/24 Tentative Fly Day

### Long Range Events

Jan. 25: CMSAF Visit  
Jan. 25: Annual Awards Banquet  
Jan. 28: Quarterly Awards Luncheon

Jan. 29: BCC Luncheon  
Jan. 29: Enlisted Promotions  
Feb. 3: IFF Graduation  
Feb. 5: Class 10-05 Assignment Night  
Jan. 26: Class 11-04 Pilot Partner Welcome



U.S. Air Force photo/Johnny Wilson  
**Air Force senior center Mike McLain goes for a layup in the Falcons' 72-65 victory over Texas-Pan American at the Air Force Academy's Clune Arena Jan. 2, 2010. McLain, a native of Portland, Ore., led Air Force with 25 points and seven rebounds.**

## Basketball: Falcons rein in Broncos, 72-65

by Nick Arseniak  
Athletic Communications

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Air Force defeated Texas-Pan American 72-65 at Clune Arena Jan. 2 on a career-high 25 points by center

Mike McLain.

McLain, a native of Portland, Ore., also led Air Force in rebounds with seven. Other high scorers for the Falcons were junior forward Derek Brooks, with 16, and junior guard Evan Washington, with 13.

## MEMORANDUM FOR ALL 14 FTW PERSONNEL

FROM: 14 FTW/CC

SUBJECT: Commander's Policy on Use of Intoxicating Substances

1. All personnel assigned or attached to the 14th Flying Training Wing, while permanent party or in a TDY status, are hereby prohibited from wrongfully using/abusing intoxicating substances, described below.

2. All 14 FTW military members are hereby prohibited from engaging in the following activities:

Possessing, distributing, inhaling, smoking, chewing, consuming or introducing into the body: Salvia Divinorum, Salvinorin A, or "Spice" in any form;

Inhaling household chemicals and other chemical inhalants for the purpose of becoming intoxicated, high, altering mood or function, or achieving a psychoactive effect;

Abusing over-the-counter non-prescription medications for the purpose of becoming intoxicated, high, altering mood or function, or achieving a psychoactive effect;

Using substances, other than alcohol, caffeine or tobacco, which are inhaled, injected, consumed, or otherwise introduced into the body for the purposes of becoming intoxicated, high, altering mood or function, or achieving a psychoactive effect. This order does not apply to lawfully-used prescription medications.

3. Military members who wrongfully use intoxicating substances adversely affect the 14th Flying Training Wing's mission and the maintenance of good order and discipline at Columbus Air Force Base. Therefore, all United States military members, regardless of branch of service, who are permanently or temporarily assigned to the 14th Flying Training Wing, are ordered not to wrongfully use any intoxicating substance, as described above, whether on base or off. Military members who disobey this directive will be held accountable in accordance with DoD and AF instructions and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Military members may be subject to administrative or disciplinary action, including loss of security clearance, demotion, or even discharge from the Armed Services. The attached "Background Information Sheet" as part of this order provides further clarifying information.

4. Illegal or improper use of drugs is fundamentally incompatible with military service. Accordingly, the wrongful use of intoxicating substances may result in your being court-martialed and/or discharged from the Air Force.

// Signed //

ROGER H. WATKINS, Colonel, USAF  
Commander

## AFSO21 at Columbus AFB

**Maj. Ervin Powers**  
14th Flying Training Wing  
AFSO21 Officer

You've heard about Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century (AFSO21), but do you know what it is doing for you at this base?

The purpose is to improve our work environment, no matter the size of the improvement. As the 14th FTW Wing AFSO21 officer, I look for any project in which personnel have evaluated, devised and implemented a plan to improve their work environment.

My main goal is to help review projects and provide input and document the process. AFSO21 is a mindset, not a set process. Not all projects create "substantial" improvements, but they make some level of improvement. Here are some of the varying projects, small and large, that have been completed within the last year:

The finance office redesigned their workflow and office to improve travel voucher accuracy to above 90 percent. The office personnel are continuing to work on improvements, in order to meet the 95% AETC goal.

The Dental Flight identified a problem in JSUPT screening that created an interruption in training due to dental exams and or prophylaxis appointments. The personnel established new guidelines and procedures for JSUPT dental exams which allow students to be screened prior to entering training and ensuring follow up visits are completed before training begins.

The fitness center noticed a need for another squat rack, but was limited in space available. They researched various weight machines and found one that could be used to perform squats and 4 additional exercises. This led to a savings of approximately

\$3600 for the 2 machines that were recently added.

The Operations Group designed and implemented a GPS-based system for all Military Operating Areas (MOAs). This new process now gives the pilots a more precise view of the training areas and significantly reduces loss of training due to failure of ground-based navigational aids.

Each of these projects has varying levels of impact. The key is that each identified a problem and developed and implemented a solution. These organizations are continuously looking to improve. At the Process Improvement office, our job is to help you in any way. If you have made any improvements, or need help with any process, please contact me by phone, 434-3406, or email, [ervin.powers@columbus.af.mil](mailto:ervin.powers@columbus.af.mil).

## SARC looking for volunteers to become victim advocates

**Capt. Nicole Droney**  
14th Flying Training Wing  
Equal Opportunity

The Columbus Air Force Base Sexual Assault Prevention and Response needs volunteers who are willing to serve our 14th Flying Training Wing Airmen as victim advocates. Victim Advocates (VA) serve as liaisons between a victim and outside agencies, including Legal, OSI, and Mental Health. VAs can answer questions about reporting options, and lend moral support to someone in need. Being a VA is a big responsibility, but can be very rewarding. The 14th FTW is looking for mature, discreet individuals, both male and female, in the rank of SSgt and above (and civilian equivalent) to serve as VAs. Sorry, but individuals assigned to SFS, MDG, JA, EO, Chapel staff, or OSI, are not eligible to serve as VAs. Please contact Capt. Nicole Droney via email at [nicole.droney@columbus.af.mil](mailto:nicole.droney@columbus.af.mil) or by phone at 434-1330 for more information.

### Victim Advocates (VA) Are

- Volunteers who must possess the maturity and experience
- Active duty military personnel and DoD civilian employees
- Required to ensure sexual assault response capability
- Required to undergo 40 hrs of VA training (locally)
- Required to attend Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) meetings when their client is involved
- Required to attend quarterly in-house training
- Required to share on-call responsibilities
- Available to accompany the victim, at the victim's request, during investigative and medical examinations

### Victim Advocates (VA) Are Not

- Counselors who provide professional services to victims (SFS, Medical, Chaplain, OSI, Legal, and EO)
- Dependents or contractors

# School bus rules of conduct

**E.J. Griffis**

14th Flying Training Wing School Liaison Officer

the School Liaison Officer, at 434-2792 or via email at: slo@columbus.af.mil

•Be orderly, quiet and considerate of people and their property in the vicinity of bus stops.

•Be ready when the bus arrives.

•Bus drivers have the authority to assign seats, give directions, and implement rules for the safe and orderly conduct of students and will report any violations.

•Acceptable public behavior will be expected of all bus riders.

•Pass in front rather than behind the bus when crossing the street to or from a bus.

•Do not enter or leave the bus when it is in motion.

•Heads or arms must not be extended from bus windows.

•Avoid eating/drinking on the bus and help keep the bus neat.

•Shouting, fighting, offensive language, or smoking will result in loss of bus privileges.

•Remain seated until the bus stops at your destination.

•Students are required to have parental permission in writing of any changes in regular transportation arrangements.

•Video technology is installed on all buses to assist with the security and safety of all.

•Students who violate the regulations can have their bus privileges revoked.

•Unauthorized persons are not permitted on the buses — this includes parents.

•Parents should develop a plan in the event your student misses the bus or the bus fails to show, especially in the case where parent(s) depart the home before the bus arrives.

•Parents who choose to wait with their children (in their vehicles) MUST park opposite of the school bus stop, in order to allow for a direct, unimpeded route to the stop.

For twenty three million students nationwide, the school day begins and ends with a trip on a school bus; and here at Columbus Air Force Base, we have fewer than 150 students on any given day riding our school buses. Recent events occurring at the bus stops and on the bus, necessitates a reminder of the policies governing ridership on the bus and proper behavior at the bus stops.

The Student Handbook from each of our school districts contains specific guidance and a code of conduct students are to follow. Bus transportation is a privilege extended only to students who display good conduct while preparing to ride, riding or leaving the bus. Continued disorderly conduct or persistent refusal to submit to the authority of the driver shall be sufficient reason for a student to be denied transportation. Improper conduct of family members which occurs off the school bus will be addressed by installation officials.

Additionally, parents should exercise proper judgment when they observe or it is reported to them by their students, whenever improper behavior has occurred on the bus or at the bus stops. Parents should: contact the parents of the child (ren) involved, school authorities and/or the Columbus School Liaison Officer. Parents should not address grievances directly to the other children involved, unless there is an immediate, life-threatening situation.

An overview of the proper Rules of Conduct is provided below. Take a moment to review it and convey the contents to your children.

Any questions, please contact

## Airmen receives bad conduct discharge

**Sonic Johnson**

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

In a December 17, 2009 Special Court-Martial, Airman Basic Jason M. Prewara pled guilty to two specifications of attempting to possess prescription pills, two specifications of using his government travel

card for unofficial, non-travel related purposes, and two specifications of stealing prescription pills from two Airmen. Following a sentencing hearing, the military judge sentenced Airman Prewara to four months confinement, a forfeiture of \$300 per month for five months, restriction to the confines of Columbus AFB, Miss., for one month and a Bad Conduct Discharge.

## Mullen underscores importance of academy experience

**John J. Kruzel**

American Forces Press Service

FORT WORTH, TEXAS, — On hand for a pair of service academy football bowl games in Texas Jan. 2, Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, underscored the symbolism of the matchups for troops around the world.

But he also emphasized the importance of looking at an academy experience as a potential for launching careers as military officers.

“These games are watched around the world and the players playing in them know that they represent great institutions,” he said in an interview before the Armed Forces Bowl here that pitted the Air Force Academy Falcons against the University of Houston Cougars.

Admiral Mullen, who returned recently from a trip to Iraq and Afghanistan, said the games in which service academies appear resonate with military personnel stationed in the Middle Eastern and Central Asian countries.

“I just returned from being overseas for a week and some of the discussions I had with players were about these games,” he said. “They’re very proud of the teams and what they represent.”

The chairman said one of the things he reminds players of is the institutions and the country they represent. It is a sense of scale and magnitude that young players often find hard to comprehend.

“My recollection of being at that age is you don’t realize per se how special cadets or midshipmen are, and who they represent,” Admiral Mullen said.

The chairman said his presence at the game here, and later at the Texas Bowl in Houston, in which the Naval Academy faced off with Missouri, was to remind them of the resonance of their mission and to show the nation’s appreciation for their service.

A day earlier in a pep talk to the Air Force team, Admiral Mullen shared an anecdote about meeting a center on the Falcon football team some years back who had planned to conclude his service in the Air Force after his stint at the Academy and once his mandatory service tenure was complete. But that player, now a captain who Admiral Mullen met during his recent trip Afghanistan, decided to take another look at the Air Force as a career, he said.

“He said, ‘I got commissioned, and it’s probably something I’m going to do for a career,’” the admiral said, recalling his conversation with the young Airman in Afghanistan. He added that it’s not uncommon for troops to attend a service academy for one reason, then remain in the military for another, a model that echoes Admiral Mullen’s own.

“I actually made the decision to go to the service academy without a long-term vision,” he said of his decision to attend the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. “Initially I was only going to be there two years ... of course, it worked out a

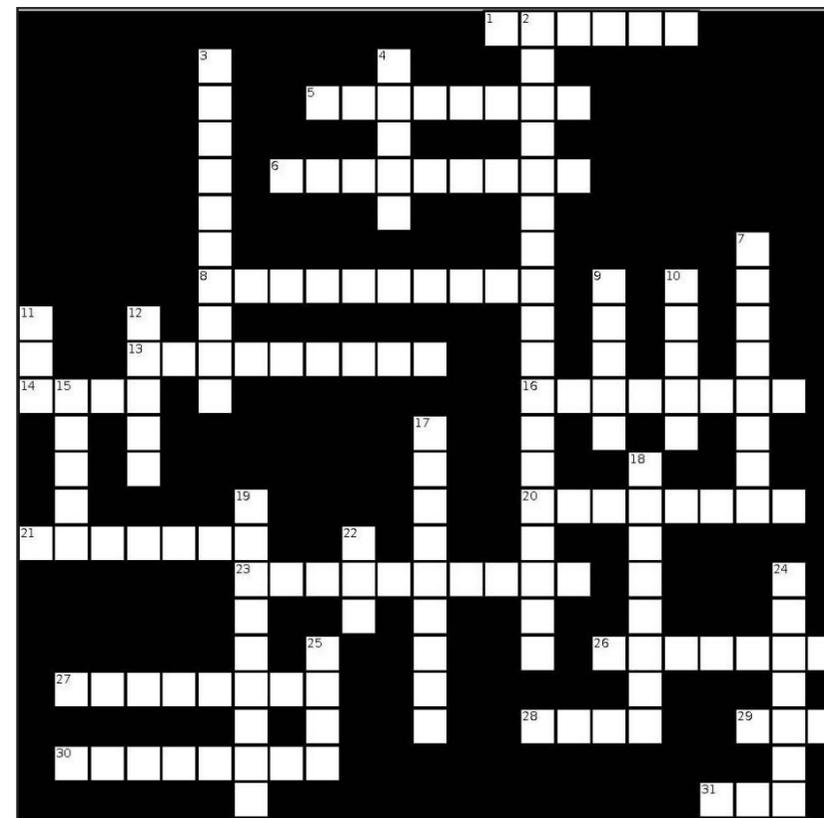


Defense Department photo/Petty Officer 1st Class Chad J. McNeeley  
**Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, addresses members of the Air Force Academy Falcons football team Dec. 30, 2009, before their appearance in the Armed Forces Bowl in Fort Worth, Texas. On Dec. 31, the Falcons won the bowl game, defeating the University of Houston Cougars 47-20.**

little differently.”

Not trivializing the gravity of today’s bowl games, Mullen predicted, accurately, it turns out, that both teams would win in exciting games.

“Yes, they’re focused on a football game, there should be no other focus today,” he said. “But there’s also a lot to look forward to.”



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Across</b></p> <p>1. Engine- _____ above 102 is indicative of a system malfunction</p> <p>5. Engine Failure Immediately After Takeoff- _____ 110 Knots(Max)</p> <p>6. Engine Failure During Flight- _____ ELP</p> <p>8. Engine- _____ /Spins 40 to 130 PSI</p> <p>13. Fuel- _____ Fuel 100 Pounds</p> <p>14. Prohibited Maneuvers- _____ slides</p> <p>16. Fuel- Normal _____ Fuel 200 Pounds</p> <p>20. Inadvertant Departure From Controlled Flight- _____ -Check</p> <p>21. Immediate Airstart- _____ Switch - Auto/Reset</p> <p>23. Acceleration Limitations- Gear/Flaps 0 to +2.0 Gs</p> <p>26. Starting- _____ Oil Pressure 200 PSI</p> <p>27. Winds- Max _____ Component for Takeoff 10 Knots</p> <p>28. Emergency Engine Shutdown on the Ground- Firewall shutoff handle - _____</p> <p>29. Winds- Max Crosswinds for _____ Runway 25 Knots</p> <p>30. Uncommanded Power Changes- PCL- _____</p> <p>31. Emergency Engine Shutdown on the Ground- _____ is set to OFF</p> | <p><b>Down</b></p> <p>2. Pressurization- _____ Valve Opens 4.0 PSI</p> <p>3. Prohibited Maneuvers- _____ -spins past two turns</p> <p>4. OBOGS Inoperative- _____ Ring-Pull(as required)</p> <p>7. Prohibited Maneuvers- _____ Stalls and Spins</p> <p>9. "Ejection Handle-Pull" is the BF for _____</p> <p>10. Intentional Spin Entry- Minimum Cloud clearance 7,000 Feet _____ clouds</p> <p>11. Winds- Max Crosswinds for _____ Runway 10 Knots</p> <p>12. Uncommanded Power Changes- Prop SYS Circuit Breaker-Pull, if Np _____ 40%</p> <p>15. "PCL-Idle/Brakes-As required" is BF for _____</p> <p>17. Acceleration Limitations- _____ Clean -3.5 to +7.0 Gs</p> <p>18. Fire in Flight- _____ Shutoff Handle-Pull</p> <p>19. Engine- _____ 106 to 110</p> <p>22. Uncommanded Power Changes- _____ Switch-OFF</p> <p>24. Inadvertant Departure From Controlled Flight- Controls- _____</p> <p>25. Immediate Airstart- PCL- _____, above 13% NI</p> |
|--|--|

## BARGAIN LINE

**The deadline for submitting ads is noon Monday before the desired publication date. Ads turned in after the deadline will run the following week. Ads can be mailed to or dropped off at the public affairs office in the 14th Flying Training Wing Headquarters building, e-mailed to silverwings@columbus.af.mil or faxed to 434-7009. Calling Ext. 7068 by noon Monday can extend the run date of ads already submitted. Silver Wings reserves the right to limit ads based on content, space and frequency of requests. Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through the Commercial Dispatch, 328-2424.**

Formal dining room, living room, sun room w/hot tub and bonus room (2714 sq ft). 2 car garage, with a large backyard with 6 ft privacy fence completely enclosed. 10 minute drive from CAFB. \$192,900. FMI call 662-242-0776.

**For Sale/Lease:** 26 Sunny Valley Cv., Oakdale Park: 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, 1300 Sq. ft., all new stainless steel appliances. Minutes from CAFB, \$130,000 or \$850/month. FMI call 330-690-3175 or 727-457-9443.

### Transportation

**For sale:** 2002 Buick Rendezvous CXL sporty SUV with leather, roof rack, new tires, CD system, plus many more premium options. Very clean, well maintained, one owner, 84K miles, 24 mpg hwy. Must sell. \$6,250.00 o.b.o. FMI call 662-327-1205.

**For sale:** 2007 BMW G650 X-Challenge, Enduro Motorcycle, war-

ranty until June 2010. Excellent Condition. Price lowered from \$6k to \$5450 obo! 2005 Honda CBR600RR, Exhaust, K&N, Integrated Turn Signals, New tires, Lots of extras. \$5450 obo. Must sell! 808-221-2005. **For sale:** 2002 Mercury Mountaineer AWD. Loaded, 86k miles, maroon, V6 SOHC, auto trans, power windows, power door locks, power steering, power brakes, AC, AM/FM 6 disc CD player, tilt wheel, cruise, delay wipers, auto headlights, rear window defogger, towing package, 3rd seat, rear A/C and new tires. Runs and looks great, asking \$8,500.00 o.b.o. FMI call 662-244-6091 after 5 p.m. or 662-889-3545. Located in Columbus.

### Miscellaneous

**For sale:** Epson RX600 photo printer and scanner with extra ink, \$50. Bike trailer and stroller, holds 2 kids, \$25. Sears Sport roof cargo carrier, 20 cu. ft

capacity, \$100. FMI Call 660-233-3235.

**For sale:** Banquette dining set, solid wood, in seat storage, seats 5 adults. \$275 662-889-3583. Sleigh bed twin, with trundle, no mattress, \$200.

**For sale:** Piano- Great condition, has three pedals \$400. Two pair of roller blades-\$5. Dell PC monitor 16" \$20. Accent amplified speaker system for PC-\$10. Matching antique bright brass table lamps \$25,each. 357 magnum with holster \$450. FMI call 328-4374.

**For sale:** Washer and dryer set, washer is older model; dryer is less than 9 months old with five year warranty, \$300 OBO for set; FMI call 662-434-2624/2626.

**For sale:** New, In sealed box! Apple Ipad ITouch 3rd Generation, 8Gig, Integrated WiFi, multimedia player, asking \$200; full-sized bed with brass headboard asking \$30, Sunbeam microwave oven asking \$25; two electric handheld blow dryers asking \$15;

Lexmark color inkjet printer \$10. FMI call (662) 386-6981.

**For sale:** NordicTrack Treadmill. Speed up to 10 MPH, incline up to 12%. In excellent condition. \$250 OBO. Will consider trade for elliptical. Please call 662-574-9764.

**For sale:** Hot Spring hot tub, perfect condition (Rated Best Buy by Consumer Report), seats 4-5, new cost \$7100; firm selling price \$3,500. FMI call 329-1843.

### Saturday Yard Sales

**Free:** Moving boxes and packing paper. Call (513) 295-6775.

### Wanted

**Wanted:** 410 Gauge shotgun, 38 caliber revolver, & 9 mm pistol, call 662-329-1843/662-3291843.

## Base News

## AAC Meeting

The Airman's Activity Council will be having a meeting on Jan. 14 at 4 p.m. in the Services Complex. All airmen grades E-1 to E-4 are encouraged to attend.

## School Liaison Officer

The Columbus Air Force Base School Liaison Officer works with local school districts, schools, parents and students on issues related to elementary and secondary education for the children of ALL personnel (civilian, military and contractor) assigned to the installation. As parents of school age children are aware, there are many unique issues our children face as they transition to new schools. The role of the School Liaison Officer is to assist families ensure their children receive the best possible education regardless of where they attend school. For assistance, please contact the School Liaison Officer at 434-2792 or via email at slo@columbus.af.mil.

## COSC January Casino Night

The next COSC Social will be a Casino Night on Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 6:00 pm, Columbus Club featuring Casino Style games, poker and more. The menu is marinated chicken, mashed potatoes, vegetables and salad. \$12 for Columbus Club-Members, \$14 for Non-Columbus Club Members. Please RSVP by Jan. 7 to coscrsvp@yahoo.com.

## Library Story Time

The base library will hold Story Time on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Story Time will continue to be held each week.

## Personnel Office Information

The Military Personnel Section (MPS) has gone to a single-point of entry for all customer service actions. Please sign-in at the Customer Support counter located in room 106. Additionally, for Common Access Card (CAC)/ID Card renewals, we request one make an appointment with Customer Support at 434-2624 or 434-2626.

## POCs and Volunteers needed for special observances

January 18 – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (2010 Theme: Remember! Celebrate! Act!; A Day On, Not a Day Off)

February – Black History Month (2010 Theme: The History of Black Economic Empowerment)

March – Women's History Month (Writing Women Back into History)

If you are interested, please contact the EO

office at 434-2546 or email 14ftweo@columbus.af.mil

## Saint Leo U. Military Spouse Discount

Military spouses seeking a degree at Saint Leo U. can enroll in two classes and take a third class for FREE. Contact Dew White at 434-8844 or stop by the Saint Leo U. office in the Personnel Bldg., Room 120.

## Education Counseling Hours

Education counseling (CCAF, Bachelor's/Master's programs, Tuition Assistance, etc.) is now available Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment only. Please contact Edward Hodge at 434-2562 to schedule.

## Attention All Deployers

The 14th Communications Squadron has a new system which allows you to place "free" telephone calls back home from your deployed location via DSN. You can call every day or once a week; whichever you prefer (allotted time is 3.5 hours a week). Pin numbers are required and can be picked up along with instructions from the Telephone Systems office located in Building 900, Room 9. Please call 434-2020 for additional information.

## DRMO as a source of supply

Authorized personnel may retrieve property that is marked for DRMO Facilities only if they are still physically located in Base Supply. For more information, call the Inspection Section at extension 434-7233 to review the property, Stock Control at 434-7198 to check for authorization and Customer Support at 434-7178 to order the property. All other DRMO processing is done via the Web at: www.drms.dla.mil.

## Do you have a supply problem?

Do you need status on an item you ordered? Did you receive the wrong part? The Customer Support section is the single point of contact when requiring assistance on supply related matters. For assistance, you may contact Customer Support at 434-7178.

## Zero overpricing program-incentive awards

Overpricing is an issue everyone should be working. All personnel are encouraged to participate, and will be rewarded for any tangible savings resulting from their price challenge. Monetary awards will be given in accordance with AFI 38-401, The Air Force Innovative Development Employee Awareness (IDEA) Program. Advice and guidance are available by calling the Customer Support section of Base Supply, located in Building 158, at 434-7178.

## Airman and Family Readiness Center

*(Editor's note: All activities are offered at the Airman & Family Readiness Center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call 434-2790 or email afrc@columbus.af.mil.)*

## Pre-Separation Counseling (DD Form-2648)

Mandatory briefing for personnel separating or retiring. Briefing should be completed at least 90 days prior to separation and may be completed up to 12 months prior to separation or retirement. Counseling held daily at 8:30 a.m. and takes approximately 30 minutes.

## Pre and Post Deployment Tour Brief

Mandatory briefings for active duty personnel who are deploying or returning from deployment or a remote tour. Briefings are held daily at the AFRC; Pre-deployment at 9:30 a.m. and post-deployment at 1:30 p.m., 434-2790.

## Federal Resumes Workshop

Writing Federal Resumes and Applications Workshop will be held 12 Jan, 1000-1100. Learn how to write a resume for federal employment. POC AFRC, 434-2790.

## Hearts Apart

Hearts Apart Social, Jan. 12 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Hearts Apart social gathering for families of deployed (over 30 days) or remote personnel. Information, refreshments, and prizes. Advance registration required, call 434-2790.

## Smooth Move Workshop

Smooth Move Workshop, Jan. 13 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Valuable information for relocating. Learn what to expect from TMO, Housing, Military Pay, Billeting, Tri-Care, Medical Records, and A&FRC during your move. Advance registration required. Must register NLT 1000 the day of the workshop. To register call 434-2790.

## Wing Newcomers Orientation

The Wing Newcomers Orientation will be Jan. 19 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for newly arrived AD and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Held at the Services Complex.

## Budgeting Basics

This event is held every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to noon at Airman & Family Readiness Center. Learn practical ways to tell your money where to go rather than wonder where it went. For more information, call 434-2790.

## Employment Workshop

There is an employment workshop every Wednesday at 1 p.m. Airman and Family Readiness Center. Participants will learn about local and base employment opportunities. For more information, call 434-2790.

## Chapel Schedule

## Pioneer Club

The CAFB Chapel has begun registration for the children's program Pioneer Club. The program will be held each Wednesday evening 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This program is open to children ages three years thru seventh grade. This is an ecumenical religious program geared to teach children about Christ in every aspect of life. A pot luck dinner will be served each week at 5 p.m. parents must join their children at dinner.

## Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Study

The CAFB Chapel will be holding a variety of Adult Bible Studies from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. A Pot Luck dinner will be served at 5 p.m., please bring a side dish or dessert to share if you are able. Please call the Chapel at 434-2500 for a list of studies.

## RefresHer

Please join us at the Base Chapel for RefresHer at 6 p.m.:

Jan. 28 – Dinner bring a salad or soup to share and Self Defense Class (dress comfortably)

Feb. 25 – Game Night/ Bring a Finger Food to Share

March 25 – Movie Night Casablanca/Bring a side dish or dessert to share

April 29 – TBA

## Protestant

Sunday: 9 a.m. — Adult Sunday School

10:45 a.m. — Traditional

Worship Service (Children's Church)

All are invited to a fellowship luncheon following the 10:45 a.m. service the fourth Sunday of each month

## Catholic

Thursday: 5 p.m. — Choir Practice

Sunday: 3:45 p.m. — Choir Practice

4:30 p.m. — Confession

5:00 p.m. — Mass

## Civilian Employment Briefing

Columbus AFB Civilian Personnel Office will host an information seminar on Department of the Air Force civilian employment. Seminar will cover job search, application process, posting resumes and civilian employment policies and benefits.

Seminar will be held Friday, Jan. 15, 8 a.m. at Kaye Auditorium and is open to everyone. For more information, contact Mr. Ben Brock at 434-2635.

## Retirement answers with new AFPC web series

First Lt. Gina Vaccaro McKeen  
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – The Air Force Personnel Center here has launched a series of web conferences, called webinars, designed to provide retirement-eligible Airmen the information they need to submit their retirement applications.

"We designed these webinars to better serve our customers and enable more direct communication between the members and AFPC," said Ms. Ann Lacey, the AFPC retirement procedures manager. "While the virtual [Military Personnel Flight] contains detailed information on the retirement process, members have expressed the desire to communicate directly with us as much as possible."

There are four webinars in the series that are held on a recurring basis: Retirements-101, for enlisted members; Retirements-101, for officers; Navigating the Virtual MPF to submit a retirement application; and "I'm approved for retirement—Now what?" Members view the webinars using Defense Connect Online.

The webinars consists of a 30-45 minute briefing followed by a question and answer period. Subject matter experts will stay on the line until all questions have been answered.

"We hold the webinars as a courtesy to members to improve communication and make ourselves more available," Ms. Lacey said. "Attending the live sessions will allow Airmen the opportunity to ask questions of the experts and share that information with other attendees."

Ms. Lacey recommends these webinars for members anticipating retirement, those who are already approved for retirement, and members assigned to Military Personnel Sections.

The briefings will be broadcast on a rotating basis the second Thursday of every month.

The upcoming schedule is as follows:  
Jan. 14, 2010—"I'm approved for retirement—Now what?"  
Feb. 11, 2010—"Retirements-101, for enlisted members"  
March 11, 2010—"Retirements-101, for officers"  
April 10, 2010—"Navigating the Virtual MPF to submit a retirement application"

To attend these webinars live follow the link on AFPC's secure "Ask" site. Once the live session is complete, members can view recorded webinars as long as they have a DCO account. There is a link to the DCO Web site on the page.

For additional retirement information, including step-by-step instructions on how to submit an application, members can visit the vMPF. For answers to any of your personnel questions call the Total Force Service Center toll-free at (800) 525-0102 or DSN 665-5000.

## Obama condemns terrorists, reaffirms U.S. resolve

Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama condemned the Dec. 25 terrorist attempt on the United States in his first 2010 weekly radio address Jan. 2, vowing to bring those involved to justice and outlining steps the administration is taking to protect the American people.

Speaking from Kailua, Hawaii, the president said the Christmas Day attempt provides an important reminder of the sacrifices Americans are making in Afghanistan and the importance of bipartisan support for all who protect the United States.

President Obama blamed an al-Qaida affiliate for recruiting, training and arming Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, the suspect in the incident on a Northwest Airlines flight bound for Detroit.

"This is not the first time this group has targeted us," President Obama said, noting that in recent years it has bombed Yemeni government facilities and Western hotels, restaurants and



White House photo/Pete Souza

President Barack Obama delivers his first weekly address of 2010 Jan. 2. The president spoke from Kailua, Hawaii, condemning the attempted Dec. 25 terrorist attack by Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab.

embassies, including the U.S. Embassy in 2008.

"So, as president, I've made it a priority to strengthen our partnership with the Yemeni government — training and equipping their security forces, sharing intelligence and working with them to strike al-Qaida terrorists," President Obama said.

The fruits of this collaboration had begun to be realized

even before the Christmas Day terror attempt, he said. Training camps have been struck, leaders eliminated and plots disrupted.

President Obama vowed to ensure all involved in the attempted attack will be held accountable, but said that's just part of a broader responsibility he took on as he came to office last January to protect the American people's safety and security.

## Stop-loss payments continue, but some no longer eligible

Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The fiscal 2010 defense budget extends payments to servicemembers involuntarily extended on active duty under the so-called "Stop Loss" program, but those who received a bonus for voluntarily re-enlisting or extending their service no longer qualify for retroactive stop-loss pay.

Defense Department officials put the new policy into effect Jan. 5, modifying eligibility for retroactive special pay to comply with Section 8108 of the 2010 Defense Department Appropriations Act, which took effect Dec. 19.

Servicemembers affected by the new policy who already received stop-loss payments will not be required to repay them, defense officials said. However, all outstanding applications from affected

servicemembers will be returned, along with an explanation of the change in law that makes them no longer eligible to receive the payments, officials said.

Department officials announced in March their intention to eliminate the stop-loss policy, which kept servicemembers on active duty beyond their contracted end-of-service date.

While the services work to phase out the policy, officials authorized a special pay of \$500 a month for anyone retained on active duty due to stop loss. Retroactive payments applied for anyone who served on active duty between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009, and the fiscal 2010 defense budget extended that authority through September 2010.

Servicemembers were able to begin submitting their claims for retroactive stop-loss special pay on Oct. 21.

## Gen. Lew Allen dies

SAN ANTONIO — Gen. Lew Allen Jr., the 10th chief of staff of the Air Force, passed away Jan. 4 in Potomac Falls, Va. Funeral arrangements have not yet been made but burial will be in Arlington Cemetery.

General Allen, a West Point graduate, entered the Air Force in 1946 and completed multi-engine flight training in November 1946. He flew bombers at Carswell Air Force Base, Texas, until he entered the master's program at the University of Illinois in 1950.

In 1952 he received a Master of Science degree in nuclear physics and went on to earn a doctorate in physics in 1954. He spent the next 19 years working in the scientific community, involved with some of the nation's most sensitive space projects. For that work he was inducted into the Air Force Space and Missile Pioneers Hall of Fame Aug. 8, 2007, at Peterson AFB, Colo.

On his way to becoming the chief of staff of the Air Force, General Allen held a number of intelligence positions including director of the National Security Agency, chief of the Central Security Service and commander of Air Force Systems Command. He was appointed chief of staff in July 1978. During his tenure, he oversaw the establishment of Air Force Space Command.

Following his retirement in July 1982, he became director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory National Aeronautics and Space Administration center in Pasadena, Calif., and remained in that position until 1990.

An award has been established in his honor that is presented annually to a base-level officer and senior NCO in aircraft, munitions or missile maintenance directly involved in aircraft sortie generation. According to officials, the award was established as a tribute to General Allen's legacy of attention to detail and technical expertise, attributes reflected in the nominees honored with the award bearing his name.



U.S. Air Force photo  
**Gen. Lew Allen Jr., the 10th chief of staff of the Air Force, passed away Jan. 4 in Potomac Falls, Va.**

## Travis officials conduct mass launch

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — Members of the 60th and 349th Air Mobility wings conducted the base's first mass launch of nine aircraft Dec. 21 at Travis Air Force Base.

Base officials said the total force launch effort was an opportunity for operations, maintenance and support personnel to train together on a larger scale than normal.

Travis AFB Airmen routinely launch three-ship KC-10 Extender formations, but this was the first time they launched three major weapon systems in rapid succession.

Although not part of the nine-ship package, base officials said to make the event even more symbolic of the airpower that Travis AFB members generate on a daily basis, a Navy E-6B Mercury aircraft, also stationed at Travis AFB, led the charge. This was followed by nine 60th and 349th AMW aircraft including six KC-10s, two C-17 Globemaster IIIs, a C-5 Galaxy, and a transient Air Force Reserve Command KC-135 Stratotanker from Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., completed the push.

In less than 15 minutes, Travis AFB Airmen launched 11 aircraft with a gross

weight exceeding 4.6 million pounds.

"Once airborne, the nine Travis-assigned aircraft separated to accomplish normal tactical and air-refueling activities," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Cooper, the 60th Operations Support Squadron commander.

Dubbed Operation Team Effort, the mass launch was a huge success, according to base officials.

"The launch was the equivalent of the world's third largest tanker fleet, behind Russia and the United Kingdom, going airborne at the same time," said Lt. Col. Brian Lindsey, the 60th AMW director of staff. "In addition to that, the launch provided more airlift capability than 25 percent of the world's air forces."

"From the ops side, we have never launched this many aircraft at once, and it has been more than 10 years since we launched a six-ship formation of KC-10s," said Col. Anthony Butters, the 60th Operations Group commander. "More than 300 currency/training events were accomplished by crewmembers, along with flight evaluations."

The mission was an opportunity for many younger Airmen to receive valuable training.

"We were able to expose the Airmen who make the flights possible, maintainers, air traffic controllers, aircrew flight equipment, to what happens in the air during takeoff, air refueling, approaches, etc., and (help them) understand what flight crews experience so they can do their jobs even better," Colonel Butters said. "Some of the older crewmembers have flown in this size of a formation, but the contingencies we are supporting now don't require this type of formation."

"None of our younger crewmembers have seen or flown in a six-ship or larger formation," the colonel added. "My goal was to expose these younger crewmembers to this in a controlled training environment, with experienced crewmembers on board, so if they're called upon to perform it in the future, it won't be the first time they have seen it."

"This launch was indicative of the massive mobility mission Travis (Airmen) execute every day," said Col. James Vechery, the 60th AMW commander. "It was a joint, total force effort expertly executed by the wonderful Airmen of Team Travis ... now that's airpower!"

## MC-12 arrives, heralds activation of 4th ERS

**Tech. Sgt. John Jung**  
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — The Air Force's new MC-12 aircraft arrived Dec. 27, 2009, to Bagram Airfield. Tail number 090623 was the first of an undisclosed number of aircraft for the new 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron here.

Following the MC-12's arrival, the 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron was activated to carry out MC-12 operations in the Afghan theater of operations.

Col. Patrick McKenzie, the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group commander, presided over the brief ceremony attended by approximately one hundred Airmen and Soldiers.

"The MC-12 is much more than just a fleet of aircraft, its pilots and maintainers. It also consists of equipment and personnel that collect and broadcast full-motion video and signals intelligence, as well as crews that process, exploit and disseminate the information," Colonel McKenzie said. "In addition, the MC-12 encompasses a host of communications experts that support and maintain the added capability that the aircraft brings to the warfighter."

Taking the reins of the 4th ERS was Lt. Col. Douglas Lee, deployed from Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., and a native of Tuscaloosa, Ala.

"As a boy growing up in the Air Force, I could only imagine this day and for this opportunity to come along - [serving] in combat is why we raise our right hand to begin with," he said. "Knowledge is power and that is what we provide. This knowledge will help protect Afghans, provide security and protect Coalition lives. All of these things directly contribute to the combined effort that secures the battlespace and helps the Afghan people to defeat the insurgency."

The first of its kind for the Air Force in Afghanistan, the MC-12 provides real-time ISR in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. The aircraft bring another capability to Operation Enduring Freedom because the MC-12 is not just an aircraft, but a complete collection, processing, analysis and dissemination system of Airmen committed to securing Afghanistan and protecting Afghan and Coalition lives.

Eighteen months ago, 'Project Liberty' was on the drawing board. Today, the aircraft and its crews and maintainers supporting the 4th ERS are operational and ready to go at Bagram Airfield.

With a unique mission to execute, members of the 4th ERS are eager to "look for trouble," as their squadron motto states, but hope to see it first so U.S. and Coalition ground forces can avoid it. The platform will enhance how Air Force ISR complements the total intelligence 'picture' in the respective commander's scheme of maneuver in the battlespace.

# Base families offered a variety of activities

## Two for One prime rib night

The Columbus Club is offering this club members only special from 5 to 8 p.m. Jan. 15. Cost is \$19.95 and includes 8 ounce prime rib with au jus for two, baked potato, chef's vegetables and garden salad. Also offering a grilled chicken breast with mushroom sauce, baked potato, chef's vegetables and garden salad for \$14.95. Please reserve your table by Jan. 8. Wine list, dessert tray, appetizer menu and children's menu available. For more information, call 434-2489.

## Family Fun Night

Mark your calendars for Jan. 20 from 5 to 8 p.m. Soft and hard shelled tacos, chicken enchiladas, Mexican rice, ranchero beans, chips and salsa, churros, ice tea and punch are on the menu. Cost is \$10.95 for adult members, children of members, 11 and younger are free. Nonmember prices are \$12.95 for adults and \$5.95 for children, ages 5 to 11. For more information, call 434-2489.

## Space A lodging

The Magnolia Inn usually has openings for Space A family and single units. Contact the lodging desk at 434-2548.

## Youth of the Year competition:

Deadline for submitting an application is Jan. 15 at the Youth Center. Open to ages 13-18. Judging is at 4:30 p.m. Jan. 28. For more information, call 434-2504.

## New Year Family Reading Program

The Child development Center invites children and families to share books brought home each week by the child from Jan. 11 until Feb. 19. The titles of the books are annotated on book jackets and placed in the hall for everyone to enjoy. On the last day, the children will receive recognition for participation

in the program and parents will be recognized for their part as well. For more information, call 434-2479.

## Year of the Air Force Family specials

The bowling center offers a bowling special Jan. 11 all day – bowl for 50 cents a game and \$1 shoe rental. The Arts and Crafts Center offers a woodshop familiarization workshop at 6 p.m. Jan. 15. Cost is \$10 per family. Register by Jan. 11. For more information, call 434-7836.

## Holiday bowling special

The bowling center is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 18 and offers 50 cents a game and \$1 shoe rental. For more information, call 434-3426.

## Home Décor Child's Upholstered Chair Workshop

The arts and crafts center offers this workshop at 10 a.m. Jan. 23. Cost is \$25 plus fabric. Register and pay by Jan. 15 at the arts and crafts center. February's class will be making a child's refrigerator. For more information, call 434-7836.

## National Spouses Day bowling special

The bowling center offers buy one game, get one free from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 26. For more information, call 434-3426.

## Paintball familiarization class

Outdoor recreation offers this class at 10 a.m. Jan. 30. Cost is \$7 per person. Register by Jan. 28 at outdoor recreation. For more information, call 434-2507.

## Mardi Gras Brunch

The Columbus Club is offering this special brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 7.

Reservations required by Feb. 1. Cost is \$17.95 for club members members and \$6.95 for their children, ages 5 to 11. Nonmembers are \$19.95 and \$8.95 for their children, ages 5 to 11. Children 4 and younger free. Featuring seafood station with steamed crawfish, crab legs, Cajun shrimp, lunch bar with crawfish etoufee, spicy fried chicken, dirty rice, gumbo, candied yams and some children's favorites; breakfast bar, salad bar, dessert station with King Cake, specialty drinks include hurricanes, mimosas, bloody Mary and screwdrivers. For more information, call 434-2489.

## Valentine Gourmet Dinner

This five-course, five-star meal is prepared by Chef Carla at the Columbus Club from 5 to 8 p.m. Feb. 13. Cost is \$45 per person for members and \$50 per person for nonmembers. Reservations required by Feb. 10. Menu includes assorted canapés, crab cakes on spring greens with sun ripened tomatoes drizzled with balsamic vinaigrette, lemon sorbet, filet mignon stuffed with sauteed spinach and provolone cheese in port wine mustard sauce, chocolate treasures in a pool of ganache. For more information, call 434-2489.

## Parents day out

The youth center and child development center offer a parents day out Jan. 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Register by Jan. 6 at the respective activities.

## Tickets available

The information, ticket and travel office has discounted tickets for Disney World, Universal Studios, Dollywood, Sea World, Busch Gardens, Six Flags Over Georgia, the Memphis Zoo, Alabama Adventure, the Dixie Stampede, Geyser Falls, and more. Call 434-2507 for more information.

## Holiday bowling special

The bowling center offers 50 cents a game bowling from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 18.

## Youth Center sponsorship program

Moving is hard, but it is also a time to meet new friends, find new hangout spots, get involved in fun and different things and go on trips to interesting places. The Youth Sponsorship Program at Columbus was created by and just for youth. To help make your transition from your old base on to your new base, contact the Youth Center and join in the fun of the youth sponsorship program. For more information, call 434-2504.

## Casino trip

Register at outdoor recreation for this monthly trip the first Friday of every month to the Silver Star and Golden Moon casinos. Cost is \$20 and includes transportation and \$25 in player money. For more information, call 434-2507.

## One Page at a Time

This program is open to youth, ages 3-13. The desired outcome of this program is to offer literacy enrichment opportunities for youth and to create a passion for reading. It is a motivational program where children read books, document their literary accomplishments and earn incentives for each level of their literary successes. Participants select books from required readings lists at school, the library, selected by their family members or from a list of 15,000 suggested titles located on the www.afyouthprograms.com website. Parents of children, ages 3-5 years, who read a minimum of five books to their child's class in the child development center will earn a book at the conclusion of the program. The program concludes March 19. For more information, call the Youth Center at 434-2504.

# Forward back to basics

**Lt. Col. Eric Moritz**  
8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron commander

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Spending my disposable income on something that helps me communicate, study and play in faster, smarter and cheaper ways seems like a pretty logical choice. I don't like to throw my money away though, so I try to take care of my stuff. I keep it clean, up-to-date and I try to learn as much as I can about it in anticipation of the inevitable troubleshooting. So, on the occasions when I have to call a company's tech help line, I can get frustrated with the basic direction of Tier 1 support: "I've already rebooted three times," "Yes, I've downloaded the updates," "No, I'm not using it as an FTP server." I've been there and done that. I need something new and fresh.

Technology seems to mimic much of our American and military cultures. We're always moving forward, trying to find the next level of efficiency, save more money and generally do things better. We probably reinvent the wheel once in a while and sacrifice tradition on occasion, but for the most part, our drive tends to make us smarter, stronger and faster. In fact, it would be hard to argue that ambition isn't an absolute necessity in this business. If we don't grow and adapt, we risk failure. If we're not moving forward,

we're going backward. So maybe then, in this military culture of constant progression, we shouldn't be surprised at the difficulty in achieving some of those "back to basics" concepts that you've heard so much lately.

The underlying challenge may be as simple as a faulty assumption; the common denominator is missing. For those of us who have been around a while, it's easy to remember the days when we sat around thinking about how to do things better, where we had months to draft up training plans and years to perfect our skills; when we longed to hit the road and test our mettle in battle. We started from the beginning and didn't concern ourselves much with things like risk management because the training-heavy environment wasn't very risky. If you can appreciate the technology metaphor, when we sat down at the console, we started by turning it on and then we, more or less, operated at our own pace. Yes, there were flurries of operational activity. But by today's comparison, they were short-term spikes, followed by time to rest, recover and assess our performance.

But the younger half of our community, those who joined after 9/11, have never had that benefit. When they signed the dotted line, the military machine was already fully engaged and we asked those young Airmen to hit the Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring

# The high cost of freedom

**Cathy L. Francis**  
Military Spouse

OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, Neb. — The cost of freedom cannot and should not be measured in mere dollars, or even in millions or billions of dollars. Today's large military budgets are spent on equipment, buildings, airframes, maintenance, personnel and training. These are the items that are most commonly thought of when people consider the cost of the freedoms we enjoy.

These costs are also paid by countries that have large military forces, but little or no freedom. The true costs of freedom are not found in a balance sheet or in the pages of a budget document.

The hidden costs of freedom include the birth of a child, missed by a deployed father. Also included are the birthdays and anniversaries missed by a parent or spouse on temporary duty, and even the simplest things we take for granted, such as missing a child's first steps, first words, first day of kindergarten or their last day of high school.

The costs can be high for many military families who support their active-duty spouses and parents. These professional warriors often struggle to maintain their ties with their families while working to ensure that everyone has the rights and freedoms we all expect.

Sadly, the cost of freedom is sometimes counted by the number of flag-draped cas-

kets returning from overseas. These are the men and women for whom the ultimate cost of freedom was their lives, and the impact on the lives of their families.

This ultimate cost is one that is not fully measured by the cold, sterile numbers of casualty reports. It is measured in the amount of unheard advice, unshared joys, unshared sorrows and in the hearts of children who only know their parents through stories and photos.

These hidden costs of freedom began in the War of Independence. They continued through the War of 1812 and the Mexican-American War.

The costs were very high during the Civil War when freedom was extended to some for the first time. The costs then included brother fighting against brother and friend against friend.

Still the costs rose, through the Spanish-American War, two world wars,

Freedom ground running, with some degree of risk at every turn. By the time they got their turn in the seat, they didn't have to worry about the power button or logging in, the computer was already running at full speed. And it hasn't slowed down since. Our reference points are different -- "back to basics" isn't universally understood.

To overcome this challenge, we all need to re-cage our gyros, old and young alike. We need to make sure our newest generation understands there are benefits to be gained by stepping back and slowing down a bit, even when the pace seems to be quickening exponentially; that it's OK to occasionally rethink our processes and procedures from the bottom up.

But we have to do more than just tell them. We have to give them the room to breathe and let them start from scratch, if need be. We also have to listen to the answers; I mean really listen. Just because we did things differently a decade ago doesn't mean that we did it better. Some long-dead methods are certainly best left that way. After all, our enemies have adapted, embracing technology and progression just like us.

But, if we can successfully share the value of our experiences while providing an environment for young minds to blossom rather than simply execute, I'm confident we can develop a common baseline from which to work. The senior airman will see "back to basics" in the same light as the four-star general. Once the true common denominator is achieved, transition to meaningful progression won't be far behind. We just need a fresh reboot across the spectrum. Maybe Tier 1 tech support has it right this time.

the Korean Conflict, Vietnam and the long Cold War. The cost continues to build as we fight today's war, both at home and abroad.

However, with this cost, we have paid for freedom for ourselves and for others who may have never known freedom. Even though we have paid a high price for freedom, we are among the few who have given freedom to others regardless of the cost we bear.

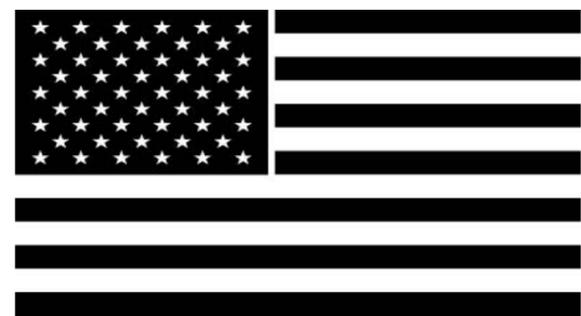
*(Editor's note: Cathy L. Francis, spouse of retired Master Sgt. Mitchell J. Francis, was recently awarded one of 25 \$1,000 scholarships offered through the Air Force's Club Membership Scholarship Program for this winning essay. Mrs. Francis is currently attending Metropolitan Community College where she hopes to earn an associate degree in medical billing and coding.)*

# AROUND TOWN

## Community Volunteer Opportunity of the Week

The Arc of Lowndes County is our local chapter of the Arc of Mississippi. The Arc is an organization of volunteers, parents, professionals, and others concerned with the well-being of children and adults with developmental disabilities. The Arc is the nation's oldest organization devoted to improving the lives of persons with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities and their

families. The Arc focuses on improving areas such as community inclusion, accessibility, and education. The organization needs volunteers to help with the Gutter Busters Bowling League on Saturdays at 2 p.m. Bowling takes place at Columbus Lanes in East Columbus and the league takes place until April. The organization is asking your help just ONE Saturday a month. For more information about the organization, please visit <http://www.thearc.org>. To volunteer, please call Meagan Coughlin at 327-0807 or email to [volunteercenter@cableone.net](mailto:volunteercenter@cableone.net).



Visit us online at [www.Columbus.AFMil](http://www.Columbus.AFMil) for more information!

# Looking back is Bittersweet: 2009 in review



U.S. Air Force photo

In 2009, 105 of the base's sharpest Airmen attended the two-day Air Education and Training Command Symposium in San Antonio, Texas.



U.S. Air Force photo

Senior Airman Jennifer Frost, a services journeyman with the 78th Force Support Squadron, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.; and Senior Airman Jeffrey Collins, an emergency management apprentice with the 87th Civil Engineer Squadron, McGuire AFB, N.J., members of *Tops in Blue 2009*, perform their show "To Dream," at the Mississippi university for Women's Rent-Whitfield Auditorium August 13. Known as the Air Forces' Expeditionary Entertainers; the group's main mission is to perform for military personnel and their families throughout the world. *Tops in Blue* has been touring the U.S. and world since 1953.



U.S. Air Force photo



The Space Shuttle Atlantis, riding atop a modified Boeing 747 Shuttle Carrier Aircraft, taxis after landing at Columbus Air Force Base June 2. Columbus AFB was the shuttle's final stop for fuel before finishing its journey to Kennedy Space Center, Fla.

**Connie Lisowski**  
14th Flying Training Wing Historian

As I write my last article before my retirement, I can't help but think about not only what happened the past year but also what has happened during my 17 years as the historian. Mission changes, new buildings, upgraded aircraft, less military personnel, more contractors, road and building dedications and new housing are just a few things that come to mind.

As the base prepared for the holiday season, a festive mood filled the air. Personnel attended Christmas parties and luncheons, finished last minute paperwork and made plans to spend time with friends and family. With 2009 drawing to an end, we reflect on everything that was accomplished over the past year.

Last year proved to be a challenging and rewarding year, and the BLAZE team excelled in every way. They honored top performers, participated in community events, hosted countless DVs and successfully graduated 264 Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, 58 Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals and 32 international student-pilots.

In addition to the mission support group, six squadrons welcomed new commanders. The wing also bid farewell to Col. Jeff Dunn and hailed Col. George Ross as the new vice commander.

In January and February, 105 of the base's sharpest Airmen attended the two-day Air Education and Training Command Symposium in San Antonio, Texas. Microsoft Vista was introduced to the base, presenting more than a few challenges. The U. S. Air Force Chief of Chaplains, Brig. Gen. David Cyr spoke to over 300 attendees at the annual prayer breakfast.

In March, the men and women of the 14th Flying Training Wing hosted over 100 AETC senior leaders during the AETC commander's and command chief's conference, which was quite an undertaking for a base this small. Attendees participated in group discussion, briefings, social gatherings and a day trip to Shiloh Battlefield.

Sadly, the base and community mourned the death of George "Happy" Irby, Sr. Happy had worked at the Officer's Club since 1958 and was a true friend and humanitarian. His legacy will live on through the Happy Fund, which benefits the elderly and less fortunate children.

In April and May, the base held three memorial ceremonies. The first renamed the 14th Communications Squadron Ground-to-Air Transmitter and Receiver site after Staff Sgt. Luis Melendez, a former CS Airman, who died in 2006 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The auditorium in the 50th Flying Training Squadron was named Faulkner Auditorium in memory of Maj. Blair "Bama" Faulkner, who lost his life in a T-38 mishap in April 2008. The new Columbus fire station was named McAllister Fire Station

after Chief Robert A. McAllister, who had served our country for over 50 years.

The space shuttle, Atlantis, made a brief stop at Columbus on June 2. Base personnel scurried to various vantage points to catch a glimpse of the shuttle carrier aircraft during a fuel stop on its way back to the Kennedy Space Center. In addition, Columbus's first ever Afghan and Iraqi students graduated from the Aviation Leadership Program.

In July, the base, City of Columbus and Corps of Engineers hosted 'Fireworks on the Water' at the Stennis Lock and Dam. More than 9,000 people enjoyed live entertainment, children's activities and a rousing fireworks display choreographed to patriotic music.

In August, the Air Force's premier entertainment group, *Tops in Blue*, performed for a standing room only crowd at MUW's Whitfield Auditorium. This year's theme was "To Dream."

Over 200 people celebrated the Air Force's 62nd birthday by attending the Air Force Ball at the Trotter Convention Center. Retired Lt. Col. Gene Smith, former Vietnam POW and 50th FTS commander, and Gen. Stephen Lorenz, AETC commander, were the guest speakers. Live music provided by *Citizen Kane* was enjoyed by all.

Christmas came early in October when the base received an end-of-year closeout windfall of more than \$25.4 million which went toward numerous base projects, such as underground utilities, refurbishing the OG parking lots, renovation of a maintenance hangar and roof repairs. Other construction projects throughout the year included Phase II of the MSG building, a new child development center, new gate houses and barriers and renovations in base housing.

In November, more than 32 personnel on the Logistics Compliance Assessment Program Team arrived to look at every square inch of the Logistics Division. LG came through with flying colors and received an excellent rating. Well done.

In December, the wing received news that it had won the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for its performance from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2009 – a testament to how hard the wing had worked over the past two years. The base held its annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony and several members of the BLAZE team participated in the local Columbus Christmas parade. Colonel Bryson's team of Caroler Crashers made surprise visits at holiday parties and units around base and entertained audiences with well-known Christmas carols.

We also need to remember all of our BLAZE team members deployed around the world supporting the global war on terrorism. They face danger on a daily basis to preserve the freedom all Americans enjoy and many take for granted.

As we bid farewell to 2009 and look ahead to 2010, I wish each of you a safe and prosperous new year.



U.S. Air Force photo

Over 200 people celebrated the Air Force's 62nd birthday by attending the Air Force Ball at the Trotter Convention Center. Guest speakers for the event included AETC Commander Gen. Stephen Lorenz and former Vietnam POW Retired Lt. Col. Gene Smith.



U.S. Air Force photo

Gen. Stephen Lorenz, AETC commander, presents civil war re-enactment volunteers a commander's coin as a thanks for their participation in the AETC Commander's and Command Chief's Conference icebreaker gathering at the Columbus AFB fire station March 2, 2009. The 14th Flying Training Wing hosted over 100 AETC senior leaders during the AETC commander's and command chief's conference.



U.S. Air Force photo

Fireworks burst above a crowd of over 9,000 attendees July 4, 2009 at the Stennis Lock and Dam. Fireworks on the Water 2009 was a joint venture by Columbus Air Force Base, the City of Columbus and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.